

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figures 7 and 8. These sheets replace the original sheets containing Figures 7 and 8. A “Prior Art” legend has been added to Figures 7 and 8.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the August 21, 2009 Office Action, and the amendments above together with the comments that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action and thereby place this case in condition for allowance. Claims 1-12 were pending in this application.

In response to the Office Action dated August 21, 2009, claims 1-12 have been cancelled and replaced with claims 13-42. The drawings have been amended to address the drawing objection. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure as, for example, the depicted embodiments (claim 13 - FIG. 1; claim 14 - FIG. 2; claim 15 - FIG. 3; claim 16 - FIG. 4A; and claim 17 - FIG. 4B) and related discussion thereof in the written description of the specification. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue. Entry of the present Amendment is respectfully solicited. It is believed that this response places this case in condition for allowance. Hence, prompt favorable reconsideration of this case is solicited.

Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 8-9.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobisaka et al. (EP 1 065 175, hereinafter "Tobisaka"). Applicants submit that the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-11.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobisaka in view of Rau et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,045,198, hereinafter "Rau"). Applicants submit that the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 12.

Independent claims 13-17 have been newly added and support for the claimed subject matter is found in FIGS. 1-4B, respectively. It is submitted that neither Tobisaka nor Rau, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter of new claims 13-42.

At the very least it is not believed that the references disclose or suggest the pertinent limitations of the independent claims as follows:

with reciprocating movement of outward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and homeward path of $B \times A$, (A: movement distance at once at a turn-back location, B: integer (1, 2, 3, . . .)), and reciprocating movement of outward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and homeward path of $(B + 2) \times A$ in reverse direction after the turn-back location moves to the predetermined position (as required in claim 13)

with a series of reciprocating including repeating reciprocating movement of outward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and homeward path of $B \times A$, (A: movement distance at once at a turn-back location, B: integer (1, 2, 3, . . .)), and returning to the initial location in a next movement after the turn-back location moves to the predetermined position being defined as one set (as required in claim 14)

with a series of reciprocating including a first movement of moving to the predetermined position, and then repeating reciprocating movement of homeward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and outward path of $B \times A$, (A: movement distance at once at a turn-back location, B: integer (1, 2, 3, . . .)), and returning to the initial location being defined as one set (as required in claim 15)

with a series of reciprocating including repeating reciprocating movement of outward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and homeward path of $B \times A$, (A: movement distance at once at a turn-back location, B: integer (1, 2, 3, . . .)), and returning to a position shorter than a burner-to-burner interval by A and returning to the initial position by a next movement being defined as one set (as required in claim 16)

with a series of reciprocating including a first movement of moving to the predetermined position, and then repeating reciprocating movement of homeward path of $(B + 1) \times A$ and outward path of $B \times A$, (A: movement distance at once at a turn-back location, B: integer (1, 2, 3, . . .)) being defined as one set (as required in claim 17)

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an

Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Brian K. Seidleck
Registration No. 51,321

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 BKS:dw
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: December 18, 2009

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